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Helping Alaskans with Differing Abilities Experience Hope Since 1968



July 2, 2020

Dear Friends and Stakeholders;

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day this weekend – a bit differently than usual – I find myself reflecting on a on the words of President Kennedy’s inaugural address, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” And Dr. Martin Luther King’s words, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” These calls to action focus on the importance of personal contributions to the greater good.

The COVID-19 pandemic began during the longest period of economic expansion in American history posing a significant threat to human life and to our way of life. Overnight we saw the entire global economic system grind to a screeching halt. And as we hunkered down and social distanced each of us watched, mortified, as Armaud Arbery and George Floyd were murdered in the streets of our cities further bringing to light the enormity of the work yet to be done as outlined in the preamble of the Constitution; to establish justice, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

When I began my career, we had to fight for people with disabilities living in institutions to have doors on their bathrooms, pictures on their walls, and to live in and be a part of community – to be “seen” as having value. Although great progress has been made, today we are still fighting for every person in our communities to be identified as important, needed, loved, and valued because to simply “matter” is the minimum for a human.

As we celebrate the many wonderful things about our country this weekend, it is my hope each of us pause to reflect how we can individually and collectively live up to these famous calls to action. Our individual acts of kindness, integrity, courage, generosity, wisdom and love contribute much to collective good.

Wishing each of you a safe holiday weekend!

Sincerely,

Michele Girault

CEO

Hope Community Resources, Inc.